

16

# The Value of an Emigrant

BY

J. OBED SMITH, J.P., F.R.G.S.,

*SUPERINTENDENT OF EMIGRATION  
FOR CANADA IN EUROPE.*

Representative for the Dominion of Canada,  
International Commission on Emigration,  
League of Nations.

---

Published in *Canada*, and Reprinted  
1ST OCTOBER, 1920.

## Past and Present Conditions Compared— Canada's Successful Policy for Obtaining Settlers.

**E**MIGRANT"! The very word connotes opprobrium, and that unjustly, in its application to a class of persons who, for generations, have proved themselves to be a potential and desirable asset to the new countries in which they have settled. The doleful melody and doubtful sentiment of the "Emigrant's Good-bye" have helped to maintain the impression that to "emigrate" is only in a very slight degree superior in condition to a case of transportation for crime, for which hardened outcasts, generations ago, were despatched in emigrant ships to distant parts of the Empire, there to be forgotten.

With my bundle on my shoulder,

Sure, there's no one could be boulder,

So I'm off to Philadelphia in the morning.

The lines embody another popular phase of the emigrant's story and condition—the emigrant, who, for so long, has been cruelly classed by his fellow-citizens as a ne'er-do-well, or a failure, while he himself, no doubt, felt that, in leaving the land of his birth, for another country, he was, indeed, taking the last and forlorn hope of a betterment of his position. Little did he realise then, that he was a type of those colonisers who have unfurled the Union Jack everywhere the sun shines. These early emigrants were real Empire builders, though they knew it not, and their descendants are to-day easily in the forefront of public life. But the nation that lost them cared nothing, and, for a long while, the nation that gained them failed to realise their value.

### Steerage in the Old Days.

In the early days of the emigration movement the steerage on a ship was indeed one of the most awful places one could imagine. Down there amongst the rats and the bilge water the only amusement was to listen to the outside chafing of the never-still ocean, the working of the machinery or the pumps, and the clanking of anchor chains, as if the spirits of transported criminals of years ago still infested those filthy and uncomfortable quarters.

There may not have been—and there were not—many luxurious fittings in a household like the modern conveniences there are to-day, but it is safe to say that nearly every one of those who emigrated in the early days of the movement came from a home where there were privacy, decency, good, if plain food, parents and other loved ones, and some semblance of respectability in the household and its attributes. It is no wonder sickness and fainting, and a home-sickness worst of all,

and fright of travel took hold of these unfortunate people, who set out on what was considered a forlorn hope to seek a livelihood overseas.

The legislation then in force did not tend to increase the respect for the emigrant among those who were not obliged to go overseas; while the wife and little children, as well as the emigrant himself, were obliged to discard even the thought of the comforts of the little home they had, during the weary and burdensome voyage, under shipping, sleeping and feeding conditions that would now be considered intolerable.

#### **The Trials of Early Settlers.**

The Merchant Shipping Act even now refers to the "Emigrant Ship," and solemnly and soullessly provides that if a ship is a sailing ship, such ship can carry "one statute adult" (referring to steerage passengers) to every 33 tons of the ship's registered tonnage, and if the ship be a steam ship, "one statute adult" to every 20 tons; and while it was necessary to provide against imposition upon emigrants and penalties for certain acts of misconduct by emigrant runners in those days, it does seem a pity that useful citizens of the British Isles should still, in legal language, be categorised as they were fifty years ago, when everything was so different.

In those days it was necessary for steerage passengers to take their own tin plates and tin cups, their straw beds and bundles, and if conditions were bad at sea neither the men nor their families had a clean, dry place whereon to sleep during the whole of the voyage. Indeed, the horrors of the journey were sufficient to drive out all ideas of ever taking such a journey again, and that proved a blessing in disguise for the country which received these emigrants.

The emigrant was generally considered a sort of outcast with whom other people only associated from sheer pity, and yet he or she was undoubtedly the bedrock on which was based a large portion of the development of Imperial and national enterprise in the Overseas Dominions.

They were men and women of sturdy stock, asking only a chance to make a decent living in return for very hard work. They did not refuse to take themselves and their families to the ragged edge and fringe of civilisation, and thus, passing through hardship and vicissitudes that are inevitable to a pioneer life, they did a noble and Imperial work in pushing the wilderness a few miles further back. The talk of developing natural resources nowadays is but a feeble compliment to the efforts of the early settlers.

#### **Changed and Changing Conditions.**

Times have changed, and so have some of the descendants of those "emigrants." They are no longer willing to work hard and to carry the burden of their country's welfare as did their forbears. Some of them refuse to accept the vicissitudes and even the glories of a pioneer life—a life which made

men strong in courage and manhood. This present generation is seeking to get rich quickly, without too much exertion or labour, and, indeed, a motor-car seems to be the inevitable corollary of modern education. This is not good for any country during its period of development, and the same may be said of the attitude of those who still look askance and "sympathetically" at what they call an "emigrant," all the time failing to realise that to emigrate, according to the dictionary, is "to remove from one's native country to another," and to immigrate is "to migrate or remove into a country." There is nothing very dreadful, after all, in these plain English words, which have a simple and comprehensible meaning; but, unfortunately, in the past at least, they were synonymous with people and conditions which everyone wished to avoid, and which have now an honourable association with entirely desirable people.

#### **How the Pioneers have "Made Good."**

Canadian public life—business and commercial life—is crowded with the names of men who figure on the scroll of fame. Lieutenant-Governors, Premiers, railway presidents, steamship managers, editors, artists, bishops, merchant princes, scientists, journalists, and last, but not least, the worker who is worthy of his hire, were emigrants to Canada, or if not emigrating to Canada themselves, their parents before them passed through the regulations of the Immigration Law.

Sixty-five per cent. of the population of Canada were born in the Dominion, and a fair proportion of the 35 per cent. who were born outside have left their mark on Canada's welfare. The once-despised emigrant has in most cases "made good," and is worthy to rank with those seeking fresh homes overseas from year to year with the same laudable object.

No longer do we see the carpet bag and the bundle on the shoulder; but we see the very salt of the earth and, in many cases, the pick of the population, not going overseas now as a forlorn hope, but because, while they can make a living elsewhere, they see in the extension and development of the resources of the Overseas Dominions a better chance for themselves and their children; and they are seeking these new homes with a gladness of heart which shows them to be at once magnificent bulwarks of Empire, and entitled to the right hand of welcome from all who have preceded them.

#### **And what of Emigration Agents ?**

And what of those excellent men and women, the real ambassadors of Empire, known as Government Emigration Agents, who, having passed through all this themselves, boldly and sympathetically take the responsibility of advising a step that for good or ill is taken by a man or a family only once in a lifetime? These are, indeed, the banner-bearers of the Dominion!

It has been my experience, during the war and since, to have had direct control of the movement of many thousands

of new settlers to Canada, comprising a very large percentage of women and children, and visiting Canadians and visitors of international repute who have witnessed the new exodus have declared that they have never seen finer people sailing for overseas. It must be a matter of regret to all public men in England that the Old Land is not able to retain these strong and virile members of the race. However, if they cannot be kept in the British Isles it is only right and proper that they should find a home somewhere within the Empire.

Only the other day the Under-Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs in Ottawa stated his views emphatically upon this important question. He presented the Imperial idea of retaining within the Empire every desirable person; and as it is the duty, so it ought to be the pleasure of those already established in the Dominion to extend such a welcome to those who come to help in Canada's development that the word "emigrant" should hereafter be a word of merit and honour.

#### **The Uprooting of Family Ties.**

In dealing with many thousands of men, women and children, including whole families, one has to have broad business sympathy with those who are tearing up the family tree over here by the roots and propose to transport it five thousand miles to a new land, plant it, water it with the tears of hope and desire, that it may take root and grow in its new place, contributing to the welfare of those immediately concerned and the commonwealth of the Canadian people.

The officials who can do this are Canada's very finest public servants, applying an amount of human insight and personal experience not required or available in any other public service. To fail once means disaster that cannot be recovered.

Not merely by the energetic development of trade are nations made great or good. They must also rely upon the physical and mental strength of their inhabitants, their morality, their manhood and womanhood, their ideals, hopes and achievements. Not for trade—not for material gain—did Canadian troops leave Canada at the call of Empire, and the one-time despised emigrant was amongst the very first to leave his new home and amongst the first to achieve immortality by making the supreme sacrifice for the Empire. Canada in those critical days learned to appreciate those "immigrants" at their proper worth.

#### **Value of an Immigrant.**

Not yet have the scars of war and the bitter animosities between nations disappeared, but as no man can live unto himself alone, so must nations, sooner or later, once more attain that amity and comity which help the development and increase the greatness of the Empire.

There have been admitted to Canada in years past many foreign-born settlers; some have fallen foul of the authorities, but the vast majority have proved an asset to the country which received them; and while many of them still continue

to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, undertaking menial and arduous duties that the British or Canadian born despise, many of those of foreign birth have attained to merited greatness in the Dominion, becoming members of Governments and leaders in social, scientific, religious and commercial life, and taking their full part as citizens of the Commonwealth.

The value of an immigrant to a new land aching for manual workers is not confined to British-speaking races, and it is a duty incumbent upon those who are qualified by birth, education and ability so to guide and instruct newcomers, not so fortunately placed, along the paths of loyalty and true citizenship, that there may be speedily realised what I have always believed and contended, that no people (no matter what their race or creed) can withstand the ultimate domination of the British Constitution, Canadian Law and Institutions, and the British tongue.

#### **Immediate Consumers and Producers.**

Not only does the immigrant, the moment he or she lands in Canada, become a consumer of food and a potential asset, consuming and wearing and purchasing the products of Canada, but in the majority of cases they also become producers as well, and it is well that people should realise something of what emigration has meant to Canada, individually and collectively.

She owes much to the physical and moral courage of her British and foreign-born immigrants. She owes much to their physical and mental strength, perseverance and artistic temperament, and not least to that restraint on extravagance which the humble worker from outside Canada—while not losing the respect he owes to the land which gave him birth—brings to bear upon his daily avocation in a new land with the light of hope as a guide in becoming a true Canadian.

Consanguinity in families is naturally deprecated, and this illegality is based upon the general desire to keep as near perfection as possible the physical and mental strength of the human race. Thus, indeed, no doubt has grown up the well-ordered and respectable vitality of the Canadian people. They stand second to none in those attributes which make a nation great; and they realise now, if they never did before, that this has grown up on a foundation of combined English and French ancestors, strengthened and diversified by the advent of some of the finest elements of other nations besides our own.

#### **An Immigration Problem.**

To keep ever in the forefront of public opinion the means of assimilation of desirable and selected men and women from overseas should continue to be the policy of the leaders of public thought, as this will provide the Dominion with the ever-varying needs of physical and mental strength required to meet the development of the resources of Canada, that are every day being newly discovered. No public money ever

spent has produced so great, so successful and so wonderful a result as that expended on the emigration service.

Although it may be a somewhat unpleasant fact, it is undeniable that Canada has (unfortunately for herself) proved merely a training school for a large number of her own native-born children, as well as her immigrants, who have passed over the International Boundary into the United States. Many have returned, if not from the first, then from the second and even third generations, yet the stimulation of immigration is urgent in order to increase the population, which Canada shows every census, and which her undeveloped resources require.

In the last twenty years Canada received nearly three-and-a-half million immigrants, half of mighty London. If she had retained all her immigrants the population would have been double what it is to-day. Was it all because of the great attraction of the U.S.A. in the early days? Or was it because Canada failed to prove attractive to all the immigrants seeking her shores? This is the problem for statesmen to solve.

During that period the total expenditure on emigration was about nineteen million dollars, or six dollars per head. Altogether apart from the value of human beings to a Commonwealth, what is the financial result of securing such a population? Say two hundred dollars of Canada's food products would be consumed by the immigrant during the first year, and at least the same sum every year so long as he or she lived. And as the birth-rate exceeds the death-rate it may fairly be assumed that the immigrant lives twenty years, and that two hundred dollars per annum has been the value of an immigrant, as a consumer who arrived in Canada twenty years ago.

#### **The Financial Aspect.**

The majority of immigrants have to work or starve, so the immigrant earns at least two hundred dollars per annum for the same period. At the cost of six dollars, per capita, Canada has thus obtained a potential producer and consumer worth to the nation in purchase and productive power a thousand times the cost. Multiply this by the figures of each of the twenty years' emigration, and we reach by sheer arithmetic the fabulous value of immigration into Canada for the last twenty years of something between five and ten thousand million dollars.

Canada's immigration policy has been entirely successful, and the expenditure involved has produced results beyond the wildest dreams of the fathers of Confederation. The men and women with character and ability to direct and advise these millions are surely among the most valued of Canada's public servants.

To sum up—in addition to the value that human beings always are to the country of their birth or adoption—Canada has for six dollars obtained a financial return of at least six thousand dollars on each of the generation of immigrants who arrived in Canada during the last twenty years.

## II.

## The Opportunities Offered to Britons in Canada.

**T**HOSE who leave the British Isles for Canada go from the real homes of real British people. They are usually classified as "British emigrants," but there are marked differences of temperament, as well as other qualities, which differentiate English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh from each other. It is therefore necessary to realise that the word "British" is not comprehensive enough in this connection. The year before the Great War Canada received 108,000 English, 30,700 Scottish, 9,700 Irish, and 2,000 Welsh settlers—no small army to advise, select and equip.

As for the "homes of the people," these emigrants are drawn from the West End as well as the East End of London, country villages, provincial towns, and factory centres. There are also in Great Britain many excellent institutions for the maintenance, education and care of orphan children, and these supply Canada with very good material. Children of five years and upwards, physically and mentally well, and with some training in their parents' homes or in institutions, are welcomed by the Canadian people, whether they be the children of ex-Service men or not. These children grow up with the country. Thousands who went oversea came back as soldiers of the King, and many laid down their lives for the Empire. What happens to such children, speaking generally and without reference to the war, will be described in a subsequent article, but here it may be said that, whatever may have been their institutional environment in this country, once they leave these shores they rapidly become independent and valuable units of Canadian life.

### Children for Canada.

During the last fifteen years 32,000 of these children went to Canada, and only one child for every ten accepted applicants in Canada was available. The scholar in British schools is taught Empire geography. Canada cultivates this feature: it enables the school children, who are the men and women of the future, to study Dominion geography commercially, and it secures the interest of these young people "early in the game."

It is estimated that for the purposes of the war 400,000 household workers in the British Isles left domestic service for munition work or war service of some kind; and while some of them after the armistice returned to their domestic duties, the vast majority did not. From the remainder we have secured already, and are daily securing, desirable household workers for Canada—although not in such large numbers as Canada would desire. These workers receive very high



wages there. Curiously, they will work for a mistress over-sea in preference to engaging in household duties at home. The selection of those suitable can only be undertaken by most experienced officials.

#### **School Teachers in Great Demand.**

In Canada there is a never-ceasing demand for school teachers, particularly for schools in the Prairie Provinces. The salaries paid are, generally, higher than they are for similar qualifications in the British Isles. It means much that the children of Canada, especially those born there of foreign parents, should have the wholesome education which can only be given by well-qualified women teachers of British origin. For this reason, as well as for Imperial and other reasons, Canada is ready to welcome a large number of British teachers. Under a special arrangement, those teaching in Canada for three or more years will find that, on their return, the time spent in Canada will count for their British pension.

The war left a number of men without an opportunity to return to their original occupations. In many instances the businesses with which they were connected "went to the wall" during the war, and, much as their former employers would like, they are not in a position to re-engage them. These men and youths, having had some experience of open-air life, and not being afraid therefore of getting up early in the morning, have readily presented themselves for admission to Canada, where there is always a chance of becoming one's own landlord. There is no question that the Canadian people welcome these active and vigorous men, whether they are experienced in farm work or not. Indeed, they prove in the end that the most satisfactory way of learning successful farming in Canada is to go there and start to work with a farmer the day one arrives.

#### **Ex-Service Men and Women.**

The prospect of free transportation across the ocean, offered by the Imperial Government as a special reward for their war workers, has given us an immense field for selection amongst Imperial ex-Service men. There were not many physically fit men under the Military Service Act who failed in their part, and the same remarks apply to Imperial ex-Service women—in truth a noble army—and even to the widows and orphans, who "did their bit" as best they could.

The majority of those who apply for free transportation to Canada do not do so because they are going to a land where they have no friends or relations. On the contrary, they have there either friends or relatives who have given them direct invitations, and experience shows that there is no emigrator like that induced by the hand beckoning from overseas.

Agricultural occupations in the Old Land seem profitable at present, but the fundamental principle underlying land hunger is the desire of a man to become his own landlord.

This is Canada's trump card. She supplies not only free land, but also easy and abundant opportunities for those who are farmers or farm labourers, with or without capital, to settle down with every prospect of success. With wheat bringing the Canadian farmer at least two dollars per bushel, he frequently can, out of the proceeds of one year's crop, easily pay for the freehold of his entire farm. There are not many places left in the world where this can be accomplished so easily.

#### **Settlers with Capital.**

We get enquiries from farmers of large means, having sons and daughters growing up to be agriculturists, who find the chances of their becoming their own landlords do not lie in this country, but somewhere overseas, and those who are tempted to try their luck in Canada seldom fail. Anyhow, it will be an act of real patriotism for many years to come for any man to go where he can produce foodstuffs for the consumption of those living in Europe. Allotment and small holders find their development into Canadian farmers an easy and natural process, and so they migrate within the Empire with apparent ease.

Conditions arise in Canada, as elsewhere, when factories of every kind feel the impulse of new and vigorous business experiences, and when it happens that the skilled labour required for such purpose is not available in Canada, there is no difficulty in offering to skilled workers here rates of wages and factory conditions which induce the movement overseas. These skilled workers look very well after themselves before they sail. They are able to communicate with their own trade organisations here and in Canada, and once they realise fair treatment is accorded to the worker, as well as to everyone else, they do not hesitate to leave for a country where all that is asked of them is that they shall succeed.

#### **Members of all Classes Seeking New Homes.**

It is in the nature of things that these several reservoirs of emigrants with a continuous movement overseas should impel business men, professional men, and even capitalists to follow the workers, and seek an opening for their professional skill and capital overseas. It is therefore obvious that the emigration movement from the British Isles is not confined to any one class, but rather to the lifting out of the British Commonwealth chunks from every stratum of life therein, advising and helping them to go overseas, each to his or her proper place for a genuine start, and this applies to urban centres as to the countryside.

It is not correct to surmise that men and women without money are not desirable emigrants for any new land; indeed, those who are obliged by necessity to work diligently, labour faithfully and honestly, are from the moment they set foot on the land of their choice, a potential asset worth many thousands of pounds, and they deserve the welcome which awaits them.

## III.

**What Settlers Get in Canada.**

**C**ARRYING their fortune in their hands, as it were, and landing among people they have never seen before, the settlers arrive not without some misgivings as to what the future holds in store for them. Little they know of the history they will be able to write ten or twenty years hence, yet their hope is strong and their faith in a new land is very great.

Such faith cannot be lightly regarded by those whom the newcomers meet for the first time, and upon Canadians already established in the Dominion there devolve the duties of welcome and assistance, even the same as they received themselves when first entering Canada years ago. Only by this community of interest and helpful intercourse will the newcomers be readily absorbed in the great Commonwealth Oversea. Canadians owe much to immigrants, who in turn will welcome others.

Some immigrants have been treated too well. They have arrived in Canada with exaggerated ideas of their own importance, or, worse still, lack of appreciation of the business intelligence of Canada, which demands a good day's work for a good day's pay, with no privileged notions or functions thrown in. And they have in many cases fared better than they deserved.

**The Lure of Canada.**

Some people do not fit in at all, and, generally speaking, most people find a new land strange, with conditions to them somewhat awkward; even the method of living is different from what they have been used to, but it is a curious after-result and an everlasting fact that, given six months in a land like Canada, the home sickness—but not the home affection—disappears, and although a trip Eastward is looked forward to with pleasure, back they inevitably go to the land of the Maple Leaf.

Others, from unforeseen circumstances not altogether their fault and not even the fault of the country to which they go, have been treated less favourably than they had hoped and deserved. This is inevitable, considering the diversity of human nature, human capabilities and human environments, but even these will readily admit that the vast majority of those arriving in Canada, desiring to succeed, do very well indeed.

At any rate, this much can be said—that an immigrant gets in Canada just what he or she deserves, and this comes of the fact that individual effort, honesty of purpose and of labour, and a sincere desire to solve all the amenities of a new life are the root and branch of a successful career anywhere

**Sunshine and Shadow.**

There is sunshine and shadow in every country, but there

is more sunshine in Canada than in most other places in the world, and this has a visible effect upon the physique and the mentality of her inhabitants. They work faster and accomplish more in the allotted time with less fatigue than in most other countries. Complaints have been made by workers going to Canada that they have been expected to do more than normal work. This is because in the Dominion conditions, climatic and otherwise, induce and even impel the quicker operation of manual labour. This is also seen in domestic and household arrangements, and there is no more capable woman in the world than a Canadian housekeeper, unless it be a British housekeeper who has learned Canadian methods.

This is seen also in the character of the children, be they Canadian born, or from British homes. The energy and vigour displayed are at once the admiration of mother and the hope of father. One recalls with pleasurable pride the several successful experiments of taking to Canada children who in the British Isles manifestly suffer from lack of fresh air. There is abundance of fresh air in Canada, and, like Canadian ice, which is worth a good deal in winter and worth more in summer, there is always a good supply.

#### **Successful Training of Immigrant Children.**

The children going from these shores to Canada to the number of several thousands a year—and I wish there were five times the number—are taken Overseas under trained escort, and in every case they go to a Receiving Home of some recognised institution, so that the policy of the Government is secured in so far that no child shall be "emigrated" unless that child goes from a Home to a Home.

Canada has made great efforts to deal satisfactorily with the problem of immigrant children, and has succeeded beyond the hopes of the most sanguine. Indeed, there is no more glowing phase in Canada's history than the reception, development, training and success of immigrant children from Overseas. The official records on file in London enable British statesmen to point with pride to the movement which has been of such advantage to Canada and of such conspicuous advantage to the children themselves.

These children are not "institutionalised"; on the contrary, they are placed in what is, after all, the best training school for children—the home of a good man and a good woman. These homes are not listed indiscriminately. They have been investigated and selected, so that not only the home, but the individuals included in the home, shall be such as will provide a desirable environment for the upbringing of the child, and no one can gainsay the advantage of a lifetime that a child enjoys from being brought up in a home of that character.

#### **Canadian System of Education.**

Such care is shown in the selection of the foster home that hardly in two cases a year have children to be removed from

one foster home to another. These homes are subject to inspection; not at stated intervals, but just when and where our male and female inspectors think it advisable to go. Such inspectors are endowed with plenary powers, and the only authority needed to move the child from an undesirable foster home to a better one is the verbal direction of the inspector to the child to come along with him or her, and bring such personal belongings as the child may have. It is found that this method of inspection, whereby the inspector, unannounced, sees the child, as well as the foster parents, in everyday life, has afforded results which justify the reception of as many immigrant children as may be considered suitable for Canada.

In this connection it is advisable to mention the system of education throughout Canada. The provinces are individually in charge of their own educational method, yet each one has now a public school system, beginning at kindergarten for the little tots, on through six or seven grades in the public school, intermediate schools, collegiate colleges and the university, and a child may go to a school in one town in the province, move to another town in the same province, and commence in the latter exactly where he left off in the former.

#### Romance of Canadian Life.

Save for some charges in connection with higher education, the whole of the public school system is free, being paid for out of public funds. This of itself is an inducement to British people, who do not always find in the parish or board schools that kind of education they desire, and they may be financially unable to provide education in what are known as the public schools or even secondary schools in the British Isles.

From the child we come to the youth, whether with his parents or without, who fears not to go to a new land, feeling the full vigour of life in his veins and willing to do such work as may be found for him at fair wages and under fair conditions. Ballantyne's "Fur Traders; or Tales of the Far North" has been responsible for more than one venturesome youth, who succeeded where the plot of that fascinating book is laid.

#### Young Lives for New Lands.

A new land never makes a mistake in securing new lives to grow up with the development of natural resources, and no youth can make a mistake in going to a new land where he will have experiences not vouchsafed to him in the smaller home-land, but where he may be quite certain there lies in front of him the pathway of success if he will but tread it like a man, and avoid sudden temptation to see what he ought not to see and to get rich quickly, without working for it. Such a youth may start in commercial life, in a town or city; go to college or to special training; or take up the occupation of agriculture, etc., and he will find that the opening lies in front of him, and success depends, in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand, upon his individual efforts. He will find that in some places of trust references

as to character may be required, but, generally speaking, the Canadian employer of labour advises the newcomer that he can tell in twenty-four hours what he is worth to him, no matter how many testimonials he may have from other people.

A willing worker will succeed, and he will learn quickly, whatever branch of life he takes up, but he will also be happy if he remembers that it pays to be sympathetic and considerate to those about him in the home to which he may for the present be going.

In Canada everybody expects to help, and the youth who spends his leisure moments in doing odd jobs about the place will never regret making himself useful, and all should always remember that in Canada, at least, all work is deemed honourable.

#### Overplus of Male Population.

It is obvious, on looking at the census returns of the population of Canada, that there is still an overplus of male population. There is a continuous and keen demand for household workers and others of the gentler sex, and no young woman need fear the lack of a cordial welcome on arriving in Canada. Household workers are needed in every province and in every town at very high wages. Unfortunately for the mistresses who engage them, many of them marry, but this is not a condition which the Government or the people of Canada in any way object to. The real remedy is this: More women should go out to Canada than in the past. Whether this can be accomplished by further inducements is a matter for the authorities to consider.

There is no country that I know of where desirable organisations for women continue so active and are so predominant as they are in Canada. It is literally impossible for a young woman to lack real friends of her own sex, or in fact to avoid the considerations of the Women's Societies, unless she deliberately intends to do so. She can go to almost the first woman she meets on the street in any town in Canada, and through her secure a woman's sympathy and direction to official friendship and support without any serious difficulty.

#### In Canadian Homes.

In towns and cities the household worker has a standing somewhat similar to that in the Old Land, but there are many labour-saving devices in Canadian households. There are fewer fire-grates to clean, and therefore no ashes to carry out, or to make uncleanliness in the household.

The Canadian mistress appreciates the welfare of those who live in her house, and the household worker has only to work in the same spirit for her mistress as she would if she had a husband to keep house for, in order to secure ready recognition and consideration which are always so much desired.

This occupation among farmers is somewhat different. In many cases the household is small, and the maid has her meals

with the family, and great and strong friendships have grown up between the mistress and the maid in farming communities, where, in many cases, later on, the mistress finds her maid not far away, herself the wife of a farmer also succeeding. There is no active demand in Canada except for household workers, unless it be certain skilled factory workers and occasionally employment of a special character. Regarding the workers in factories, it may be noted that the fullest consideration has been shown for their welfare, their wages and factory conditions are subject to review by an official Department, and the worker is not encouraged to go to any place where the housing accommodation and conditions are not also satisfactory. Add to this the fact that such workers cannot be found elsewhere in Canada, and it becomes certain that the factory hand has the opportunity of making good under comfortable conditions, at least so far as the Canadian Government can make them.

#### Farmers in Canada.

Paralleling the conditions of prosperity which seem to prevail at present amongst agricultural classes in the Old Land, one of the results of the war has been to increase very materially the prices received by farmers and agriculturists in Canada for their products. It is not within the scope of the present article to discuss the demerits of the high cost of living, but one cannot exclude the fact that the farmers in Canada are getting more than twice as much for their produce as they were before the war, and yet land values have hardly increased. Why? There is something curious and incomprehensible in this. I know of a choice half-section of land within four miles of a railway station, in a prosperous English-speaking community on the prairie, that has recently been valued by the Soldier Settlement Board of Canada at \$18 per acre, which means, with the present price of wheat to the farmers of Canada, that nine bushels of wheat (or half a crop) at \$2 per bushel buys the freehold of an acre of this land. This is how a farmer can pay for the freehold of his farm from one crop, and explains why American farmers are flocking into Western Canada and securing the best of the lands which British farmers ought to have secured long since.

These are conditions which ought to be immensely attractive to farmers with large or small capital from the British Isles, and if they do not secure this cheap, good land while it is available, they will wake up too late some day to the desirability of purchasing, and find the price very greatly enhanced. The American farmer knows better; he sells out in the States for \$100 per acre, and very often much more. He moves with his family to Canada, and if he has two sons they can buy the freehold of three farms for the price of the one they sold on the other side of the Boundary. Where else in the world is this possible?

## IV.

**A Land Overflowing with Opportunities.**

**O**NE need not here discuss in detail the various conditions under which farmers live in Canada. Suffice it to say that the sod shack and the log hut of early days have long since given place to substantial homes; and under present conditions there never was a time when the attractions of Canada to farmers with capital were so extraordinarily great as they are now. Canada has always been the "land of land-owners," and opportunities exist there as nowhere else in the world.

With the very excellent crop prospects of the present season it will be strange if there is not this year and next a large influx of British farmers to take advantage of what seems to be almost the last chance in the world of a man with small means becoming his own landlord.

It is axiomatic to state that Canada is crying out for workers on the land. This is the usual and inevitable condition of all countries whose natural resources are only in part developed. She needs 40,000 extra harvest hands now. High as the wages may be considered which are paid to farm hands in the British Isles, they in no sense begin to meet what is being offered for the experienced farm labourer in every Province of the Dominion. Such a man can go anywhere in a farming district throughout Canada and be engaged at sight, at a wage which in two years' time would enable him, with care, to have saved sufficient to make a payment on a farm of his own and have sufficient capital to operate it. This does not mean that he would pay for his farm outright, but he may take up a free homestead, and his two years' savings would be ample to operate it as a paying proposition; indeed, at present prices it would not be impossible to make a cash payment upon a purchased farm near to a good settlement, and still have something in the way of capital to "run the show."

**How to be Successful and Prosperous.**

The path of development of Canada is strewn thick with successful thousands, who worked for farmers for a few years and became prosperous land-owners with freeholds in their own names.

In most cases the farmer works in the field just the same as his hired help, and, except on large farms where there is separate boarding accommodation for the help, the hired man eats with the farmer's family as one of themselves. Indeed, it would be difficult in many cases on driving over the farms and into the fields to discover at first sight who was master and who was man. Such is the result of unity of labour under conditions which are satisfying to both parties to the agreement.

It has been asked, what are the chances of a man with no



previous experience on the land succeeding? Here, again, the story is a bright one. I have often been asked to recommend some method of instruction by which a young man in England may learn something to help him to farm in Canada, and invariably my reply is, that the best way to learn to farm is to go to Canada and start work with a farmer the day one arrives. This is undeniably true for an intending worker, be he a youth of 16 or 20 or a man reaching towards middle age.

#### **To Gain Experience.**

The call for help on farms is such that anyone who has a pair of arms to work with, and is willing to learn, will be engaged the day he arrives, at some wages over and above his board and lodging, such wages to be increased from time to time as he gains experience. It is manifest that the destiny of such people lies in their own hands. Some gain enough experience in eighteen months to warrant them in securing land of their own; others take longer, but, generally speaking, the young man who cannot in three years gain sufficient experience to justify a successful attempt, at farming on his own account ought to take up some other occupation.

There are certain seasons in the year, particularly at the approach of winter, when the land seeker is advised to leave his family behind until the following spring, but there are other seasons of the year when it is highly desirable that the family should accompany the land seeker, because a family works best when they are together, and there is no difficulty in arranging for the family to remain at a boarding house in a town, or even with an adjoining farmer, until the head of the household is prepared to receive the family on his own land.

#### **The Road to Success.**

I do not, except in very special circumstances, advise the breaking up of families. A man needs the consolation and help of his wife and family, and the family should not be left behind without good reason, subject to anxieties and worries that would not exist if they had accompanied the breadwinner.

There ought to be thousands more farms taken up and cultivated than there are, and one welcomes the advent of the new semi-public organisation which is being so generously supported by the business men of Canada, who are determined that the vacant spaces that are only waiting for the willing worker, to be turned into prosperous farms, shall be offered under safe and reasonable conditions to those who are still hungry for land.

The success of the Land Settlement Board of Canada, by which so many thousands of Canadian ex-service men have been placed on the land, affords at once a complete proof that, given an opportunity of gaining experience and capital, there is nothing to prevent others than ex-service men succeeding just as well as do the soldiers.

### A Noble Birthright.

The advance of probably sixty million dollars by the Canadian Government to settle the ex-service men on the land in Canada is sufficient proof of the practical aid which, having been made available for the men who have turned their swords into ploughshares, is securing producers of foodstuffs that make for individual and national prosperity. Second only to this Government scheme is the generous and business-like arrangement of the Canadian Pacific Railway, under which British farmers get excellent land, proper advice and financial help to become successful producers of agricultural products for the railway to carry.

The immigrant gets in Canada protection of the Union Jack; a Government elected under a full free franchise; good laws and a law-abiding people; good wages; excellent factory and working conditions; fresh air; healthy moral conditions; desirable fellow citizens; free education; good food in plenty; sane pleasure and recreation; churches of every denomination; freedom of speech and action; a share in the development of wonderful natural resources; a warm and comfortable home, and the *opportunity* he needs.

The Earl of Dufferin, a former Governor-General of Canada, said on one occasion: "Never has any people been endowed with a nobler birthright or blessed with prospects of a fairer future than the Canadians. Whatever good gift God has given to man is to be found within the borders of Canada's ample territory."



## V.

### It Will Pay Canada.

**E**VERYTHING costs more, and emigration propaganda is no exception to the rule.

To induce more British people to emigrate to Canada financial aid is needed in many cases, because the war has destroyed the savings of so many of them. The compulsory Military Service Act in the British Isles practically brought every fit man into the Army; his family lived on his savings (if he had any) *plus* the separation allowance for the family, which ceased on demobilisation. The cost of living mounted to 150 per cent. above pre-war rates; wages did not. The cost of ocean and rail transport has become largely prohibitory for domestics and other working classes, and these are the classes most wanted in Canada.

### What Inducements ?

The majority of those going abroad in their thousands during the past twelve months have been able—and, indeed, obliged—to take advantage of the Imperial Government war gift of free transportation to a port of landing in Canada, but this ends with the end of 1920, and then what?

If a new settler is worth five or six thousand dollars to any new country, it is a reasonable and cheap proposition to get him (her, or them) by making an advance of the whole or part of the cost of transportation. Without that assistance from someone or from somewhere these classes cannot be secured in the numbers needed, and Canada really needs ten times what she is now getting to fill her vacant spaces.

Apart from their value as Empire builders, the return on the outlay is immediate, and begins on the day the immigrant lands, when he or she begins to consume Canada's products.

The "Times Book of Canada," just published, states:—"Canada's great period of expansion from 1903 to 1914 was associated with three factors: (1) The exhaustion of free lands in the United States; (2) a tide of immigration that brought in some 3,000,000 people; (3) the new readiness of the London money market to lend great sums of money for the building of railways, the development of Canadian industries, and the equipment of the new towns that sprang up throughout the Western Provinces. The first of these factors certainly contributed largely to the increased volume of immigration, and this increase made large borrowings at once necessary and possible."

### The Need of a Beckoning Hand.

Canada can make it worth while to live there. It will pay her to do so. There is no royal road to success in any branch of farming in Canada. There can be no compulsion on any class, or members of any class, to stay on the land and work it. You cannot chain a worker to the plough, or nail to the kitchen floor the shoes of the kitchen maid. If the work be available, be made interesting and worth while, there will be no lack of suitable workers, because the law of supply and demand never fails if there be freedom of action on both sides.

Inducements that seemed superior have in the past drawn to the United States over a million Canadians. They saw a beckoning hand somewhere "South of the Line," and we need the same sort of hand stretched out in Canada, beckoning to those in the Old Land, who prefer to remain under the Union Jack.

### Control of Ill-regulated Propaganda.

Economic and industrial conditions in the British Isles are not improving. There are signs that unemployment will occur in some trades, and as no man improves by being out of work the time to help him is not when unemployment has sapped his energy and spirit, but rather the immediate present. Canada wants real workers for her development. These

workers can find ready occupation, and their advent means more and more development, agriculturally and industrially. It would pay Canada to do it now.

There should be control of the advertising of wild-cat real estate schemes, and prevention of sales outside Canada of town lots of fictitious and inflated values. Canada has lost much credit overseas by permitting such schemes to fructify, and it will take years to undo the damage to Canadian interests that results from the disappointment and disgust of thousands who were induced to buy town lots miles from nowhere and utterly valueless to-day. The assessment rolls of many towns and villages tell the tale. Prevent "wild-cattling" in Canadian lands, at least outside the Dominion. It will pay Canada.

#### **Canada Must Fulfil Her Destiny.**

No new country can develop its natural resources without armies of unskilled workers. If Canada cannot get all these of British stock she must turn to her Allies and neutral nations, and men who are carefully selected will work, and, if properly guided, will qualify to become Canadian citizens. Those who study the question know that a very large number of Canadian families have rich foreign blood in their veins, and there are more serious conditions to be guarded against than the advent of "foreign hewers of wood and drawers of water," for work which British people cannot, or will not, undertake.

Canada must fulfil her destiny as a nation within the British Empire by developing much more rapidly in the future than she has in the past her wonderful natural resources. Only by immigration on a large scale can she do it. It will pay Canada to do it.

This developing energy will not be limited to British-born stock, because it is the foreign immigrant who is able and willing to do the disagreeable and even unhealthy work and very largely find the men for hazardous occupations underground.

#### **No Need to Gibe at the Foreigner.**

The stock of the immigrants has not been poor, but the immigrants themselves have often been neglected by the public, and sometimes prove a danger instead of an asset until the public change their policy towards them. Make the immigrant, British or foreign, a good Canadian citizen, or do not admit him at all.

There is no need to gibe at the foreigner within the gates. There is no quality that adds to the dignity of manhood really wanting in that class of immigrant. These people of other blood have physical courage, patience, self-sacrifice, thrift, filial affection, obedience, ambition, love of personal liberty, and a longing for freedom of spirit and religion. The guiding of these sentiments, which belong to all classes, Canada cannot afford to disregard, and it should be a part of the public duty of every Canadian.

Sixty per cent. of the farmers and farm workers in Canada came from Europe during the past twenty years, and 90 per cent. of the labour to build Canadian railways came from the European Continent. These figures are sufficient to give Canadians much thought.

#### **The Improved Quality of the British Settler.**

Because the quality of the British emigrant has so much improved, the conditions of travel by sea should be as generous as possible. It might be well if sympathetic and skilled advisers travelled the ocean with them. So many leave these shores with nothing more than a cursory idea of what is in front of them. They are great venturesome souls, like those who generations ago made Canada what she is to-day. They need sympathetic guiding, at least as much as a Canadian would need were he leaving Canada to make a home for himself in some other land.

Conditions of railway travel in Canada are not always what one would like them to be, and have not kept pace with the improved character of the people, whose finances oblige them to use the cheapest class of travel. There ought to be a porter in charge of every colonist car, because on such a journey the qualities of human nature are seen in full play. One sees the advantage attaching to any special coach under the control of such an official. Would it be too great a strain on the financial fabric to provide something that would tend to relieve the long journeys of tired, and perhaps dirty, immigrants? Those who fail to appreciate this point should spend two or three nights in a colonist car and they would realise it was a poor sort of introduction for those we invited to come to Canada.

#### **A Trump Card.**

The system of giving free land in Canada was a trump card with the land hungry. It is possible to get free land to-day, but it is mostly some distance from a railway track. The policy of building gigantic lines of railway resulted in wide-spread and sparse settlements. That system has not proved the best, nor did the system of homesteading, which never provided for social intercourse and close settlement of the agricultural classes.

Instead of wonderful and long lines of railway, many branches were needed, and very many of them are needed to-day. If that policy had been adopted, one-half the great West would now have been closely settled, and the other half yet available for new people. The principle of obliging each settler to live miles away from his fellow on his own homestead, instead of giving each settler a couple of acres for his home at the cross roads in each township, has always been a mistake. The rectification of that error would remove a prolific cause of terrible isolation and lack of community

between old and new settlers, and would bring down upon the Parliament of Canada the blessings of the present and the future generations yet unborn.

#### **An Excellent Slogan.**

"Build up the vacant spaces" is an excellent slogan. And this is a good way. It would pay Canada to do it.

It is not permitted to me to discuss the political result of the American emigration movement, but it is clear as sunlight that the American farmer comes to Canada because our agricultural dollar is bigger than his. Canada has ample land areas from which to provide the world with foodstuffs. Wheat will always buy imported goods.

#### **A Poor Worker Better than an Idle Millionaire.**

Canada ought diligently to seek the desirable settler and help him. It is not true that the poor man is unworthy or worthless; on the contrary, men with capital are useful if they use their money in the proper way, but a hundred poor men who can work are better for Canada than any imported millionaire. No man should be prevented from "doing his bit" in Canada because he has not the price of his transportation. The Canadian people need to get hold of this idea that the workers—men and women—are what Canada really needs and she should be willing to pay to get them.

#### **Family Settlements.**

A man will stick and stay anywhere his womenfolk want him to stick. Those who can and will help to settle a man with a family ought to realise that very important truth. The splendid women organisations in Canada should be encouraged to continue and develop their good work for the benefit of women, especially the newcomer. They who make them welcome, let them help newcomers to found a new home and raise a family to the honour of themselves and of Canada. The National Council of Women of Canada embrace practically every association of women, and in the immigration field there is opportunity unlimited to do good service that will place the newcomers for ever in the debt of the people of Canada. Give the women a chance and then see their menfolk quickly realise that in Canada men have a mighty respect for the other sex.

#### **"Canadianise."**

So long as a partially disabled ex-Service man from overseas is not taking the place of a Canadian ex-Service man, give Tommy Atkins a chance to show what he can do in a new land. He was maimed in a great cause.

The exchange of visits by school teachers in Canada with similar teachers oversea has produced better results than the originators ever hoped. Those from Canada, being Canadian,

cannot help telling what they know, and those from oversea come back from Canada laden with news of a great land of opportunity.

Children are under the control of teachers more waking hours in a day than they are with their parents, and the best of teachers should be encouraged to lead the foreign child as well as the Canadian born. It will pay Canada.

**" A Canadian Creed."**

Give all newcomers some good literature and papers immediately on arrival. See that they get it continually. Let them read and "think Canadian," and teach them "A Canadian's Creed," by Margaret Bayne:—

I believe that a citizen of Canada belongs to a country whose explorers, founders, pioneers, and makers are as noble as any race in all history.

I desire to be a true Canadian, to be a maker, however humble, of this great commonwealth, and to contribute whatever of good I may bring from my homeland.

To perform adequately whatever tasks the needs of this new country may impose upon me, I pray that the lust for labour and the gift of growth may be mine.

